

ST. THOMAS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES
October 16, 2018

Members Present: Bill Coppa, Brian Johnson, Leslie Oakes, Renee Kinnear, Don Rickerson, George Anderson, Hank Heuser, Marian Ludlow, Lori Perez, Merv Lyle, Caleb Mathews, Pat Brown, Joe Steen, Gordon Haines and Janie Russell. Also present: Will Ameen.

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 pm by Bill Coppa. The opening prayer was given by Pastor Brian.

Devotion: Bill Coppa gave the devotion. “Practice Good Stewardship:” We are stewards of our time. God has given each one of us a little “chunk of eternity” called time. These golden moments are doled out for our benefit and for God’s glory. We must use them wisely. “We have only one life that will soon pass; only what’s done for Christ will last” is the sentiment of every man who desires to be a good steward of his time.

Motions:

- **Motion: Church Council will approve the final draft of the Finance Report unless we hear any further comments within one week of receiving the the policy via e-mail.** (Steen/Haines) Motion Passed.
- **Motion: Move we commission our accountant to change the name on our tax ID to St. Thomas as soon as possible.** (Anderson/Ludlow) Motion passed.
- **Move that we start a Strategic Planning Team.** (Steen/Anderson) Motion passed.

Visitors/Congregation Time: None

Minutes: The September minutes were approved by e-mail.

Celebrations:

- Hank is going to London to see his granddaughter; he’s having knee replacement surgery. He also asked for prayers for his brother, who has cancer.
- Lori is going to Machu Picchu in November.
- Will said that his daughter Sarah is getting married on November 3rd.

Pastor Time:

Brian Johnson:

- This Saturday is Haymarket Day.
- HM partnered with Sweet Julia Grace fundraiser last week.
- We will also go caroling again this year.

Abi Foerster:

- Abi is attending the Academy for Spiritual Formation for five days. Each day is marked with 12 hours of silence for meditation.

Leslie Oakes: No report

Financial Policies Discussion:

- For the past 3 months Pastor Abi and five church members (Bill Coppa, CC Chair; Don Rickerson, Trustee Chair; Merv Lyle, Lay Leader; George Anderson, Finance Chair, and Pat Brown, Lay Delegate) have been going over the church's financial policies. Guidelines have been updated.
- *“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this, says the Lord, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.” Malachi 3:10.*
- The church's authority is first and foremost the work of God. Other factors: Book of Discipline, Church Council, our mission and vision.
- Biblical Theology: God's ownership vs. ours.
- Financial policies include
 - How we receive and spend money.
 - Gifts, memorials, bequests, trusts, fundraising.
 - Purpose: clarify and communicate.
 - Who's responsible?
 - Pastor: provide leadership for funding; promote faithful financial stewardship.
 - Treasurer will disburse money and make regular and detailed reports of funds.
 - Financial secretary: supervise counting of monies and keep records of contributions and payments; provide yearly summaries.
 - Others: tellers, check signers, Church Council, Stewardship Committee.
- Resources: tithes and offerings in worship; designated giving; legacy giving, fundraisers, other (Building rentals, SCC, fees for services)
- A new policy has been made for fundraisers. Fundraisers will be overseen by Finance Committee in coordination with Trustees once the fundraiser is approved.
- Spending: salaries, ministry programs, apportionments, building costs, local relief, missions.
- All requests for funds need to be put on a purchase order and must be approved before the purchase is made. The limit for spending without Finance/CC approval is \$1000 for most committees and \$1500 for Trustees.
- Designated funds: Currently there are 50+ funds. The Task Force suggests 7-12 Categories going forward.
- The updated and newly created policies (for Gifts, Memorials, bequests, and trusts and also for fundraising) were presented last week to the Finance Committee. Another presentation will be given at the Tuesday Night Worship on November 13th.
- The purpose of this policy is the following:
 - Everyone on same page regarding finances.
 - Designed to keep the church on target.
 - Build a climate of trust.
 - Promote accountability.

- Not written in stone, changes can be made is needed.
- Tonight's purpose is to establish what we're trying to do and vote for this starting point. (Note: Brian thinks the Endowment policy and Designated Giving Policy need to be presented at Charge Conference.)
- **Motion: Church Council will approve the final draft of the Finance Report unless we hear any further comments within one week of receiving the the policy via e-mail.** (Steen/Haines) Motion Passed.
- Designated funds: we would like to match designated funds to the collective mission of the church. We have 3 lists of possible designated funds, which will be discussed at another time.
- Question: When will the new policies take effect? January 1, 2019.

Status Reports:

Lay Leaders: Merv Lyle

- The Lay Leaders are continuing to support the pastor.

Outreach and Evangelism: Renee Kinnear

- Trunk or Treat – we will have an “outreach” van in front and will be talking to people.
- Next movie night is November 30th – The Muppet Movie.
- Drive Through Nativity: We'll start advertising in November. We will get a sign up sheet posted. We would like to know anyone who has live animals we could borrow.
- Fall Jubilee – went well, over 40,000 people were there.

Missions: Lori Perez

- We approved \$5000 for Back Pack Snack Attack.
- We had approved \$500 for Drive Through Nativity but they need some additional funding, which was approved.
- \$1000 was approved for an Eagle Scout Project.
- Loch Lomond Elementary will send flyers for Trunk and Treat home with their students.
- We will be collecting new coats, sweat shirts and pants, etc., for Loch Lomond Elementary.

Finance: George Anderson

- September Finance report: General offering was \$735,875.37. Income from all sources was \$861,128.92. Total expenses were \$907,662.32, with a deficit of \$46,533.40.
- The largest account right now is designated funds.
- Lori reported that a vice president at our bank said our tax ID is tied to Manassas St. Thomas so all checks must be made out to MST. She's giving us several months before they will deny our checks.
- **Motion: Move we commission our accountant to change name on Tax ID to St. Thomas as soon as possible.** (Anderson/Ludlow) Motion passed.
- Are there options for Haymarket? Brian would like us to look at this.

Education: Leslie Oakes

- We have three new small groups.

Youth Ministry: Caleb Mathews

- Trunk and Treat is coming up.
- Tweens met last Friday. We had ten kids. They handed out batteries for smoke alarms.
- Third grade classes for Bibles – they will receive their Bibles this Sunday.
- We attended Octoberfest district event.

Trustees: Don Rickerson

- The floors were waxed downstairs.
- Utilities are running about \$4000/month.
- Refrigerator for kitchen needs to be replaced.
- An upright freezer has been donated. It's in the Fellowship Hall.
- We have an Eagle scout who will do a "Pet Memorial" for us.

Stewardship: Joe Steen

- Letters went out Friday. There were 4 different letters to target different families.
- Tithing 101 is this Sunday.
- October 28th is Stewardship Sunday. We will have donuts after each service for a celebration.

Communications: Joe Steen

- We have a new website. All staff knows how to keep their content fresh.
- Send the Church office any information, etc. and it will be sent to the appropriate person.
- We are streamlining the Sunday bulletins.
- The Newsletter will be monthly.
- Mid-month – an e-blast will be sent out by Abi.
- Bulletin boards will be current.
- IT Committee is working on more monitors.

Sunbeam Children Center: Report sent by Natalie Martin

- Current Enrollment is 120 children; 83 registered in Day Care and 37 registered in Preschool.
- SCC board met on Sept. 26th and discussed the following:
 - The church website was updated recently, to include the SCC pages and increased ability to sign up for events. We are looking to add more pictures in the coming weeks.
 - The center will provide the Council with a school year financial roll-up before the Charge Conference on November 17th.
 - Veronica is working on a staff salary matrix in regards to experience and education in an effort to increase transparency.
- The next SCC board meeting is on November 27th, where the next school year's budget will be presented.

- To show the board's appreciation to the staff, we will provide lunch at their staff meeting on February 5, 2019.

Worship: Marian Ludlow

- Next meeting is November 18th.

SPRC: Gordon Haines

- Next meeting is October 29th.
- We continue working on job descriptions.

UMW: Pat Dodson

- The Bazaar is this Saturday.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Strategic Planning Committee:

- We have done this in the past but have not followed through.
- Pastor Abi has these plans and would like to see how the congregation wants to go forward.
- Five to eight people have been identified. We will get in touch with them and see if they want to serve.
- The Committee will begin January, 2019 with the intent of meeting for 6 to 12 months, depending on the availability of those serving.
- **Motion: Move that we start a Strategic Planning Team.** (Steen/Anderson) Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:06. Brian gave the closing prayer.

The next meeting will be November 20, 2018 at 7:15 at Manassas.